

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-IEP-1A
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 06-IEP-1A	
DATE	OCT 04 2007
RECD.	OCT 04 2007

October 4, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

I read with interest the draft 2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report. I would like to point out one minor quibble with a statistic in the land use chapter. On page 288 (of the pdf), the report cites a statistic that Portland, OR lowered its per capita VMT by 11% between 1996 and 2002. These years happen to be the highest and lowest years of per capita VMT in the recent past. More recent data is available from the City of Portland (at <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=16340>). Between 1996 and 2005, the most recent year data is available, per capita VMT decreased by 4%.

It would reflect positively on the credibility of the Energy Commission to use the most recent figures here, even if they do not present as rosy a picture as the figures from the currently selected years. Alternately, another figure that could be cited to make a similar point would be the estimate by Ewing et al.¹ that VMT can be reduced by roughly 30% through compact development, and that this reduction will translate into a 7-10% reduction in GHG emissions through land use alone by 2050. This estimate is for the nation as a whole, and the estimates might be different in California, but I feel this figure presents a deliberate and carefully considered projection of the likely long-term potential of smart growth to affect GHG emissions.

Thank you for your consideration, I appreciate the effort staff put into developing the current draft of the IEPR.

Sincerely,

Julia Silvis

Graduate Student
Transportation, Technology & Policy
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Julia Silvis

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¹ Reid Ewing, Keith Bartholomew, Steve Winkelman, Jerry Walters, and Don Chen with Barbara McCann and David Goldberg (2007), "Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change," Urban Land Institute, Chicago, IL: 2007. Available online at <http://www.uli.org/policypapers>.